

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 022210Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6182

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 3475

EXDIS

FROM MEPC DEL

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR MEPC IS SY

SUBJ JUNE 2 MEETING OF ISRAEL-SYRIAN MILITARY WORKING GROUP

SUMMARY: SECOND WORKING SESSION MORNING JUNE 2 WAS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE. IT BEGAN ON NOTE OF TENSION OVER DISPOSITION OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY PRISONERS CAPTURED DURING GOLAN HTS FIGHTING BY ISRAEL, REPATRIATION OF WHOM REQUESTED BY SYRIANS AS POWS. ISRAELIS REFUSED TO DISCUSS THEM IN MILITARY WORKING GROUP, ONLY LATER, IN SEPARATE FORUM ALONG WITH IMPRISONED SYRIAN CIVILIANS. THERE WAS ALMOST AUDIBLE SIGN OF RELIEF WHEN SYRIANS EVENTUALLY WITHDREW POINT, SAYING THEY WOULD TAKE MATTER UP THROUGH ICRC CHANNELS. SOON AFTER, SYRIANS JOINED ISRAELIS AROUND MAP TABLE IN CENTER OF ROOM AND TALKED DIRECTLY TO ISRAELIS THROUGH REST OF SESSION. HUMOR WAS NOT LACKING, AND MOOD WAS ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT FROM STIFFNESS OF PREVIOUS DAY. THIS MOOD GOT EVEN GAYER AND MORE RELAXED WHEN SESSION WAS RESUMED AFTER MID-DAY RECESS. PROBE CONTINUED INTO DISCREPANCY IN NUMBER OF POWS CLAIMED BY SYRIA AGAINST TOTAL OF FIVE FEWER ON ISRAELI LIST. SYRIANS AGREED

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TO RETRIEVAL OF WRECKED ISRAELI VEHICLES IN NO-MAN'S-

LAND, TO TAKE PLACE CONCURRENTLY WITH FIRST STAGE OF DISENGAGEMENT, JUNE 6 TO 8. SYRIANS ALSO PROMISED REPLY ON DATE FOR EXCHANGE OF DEAD SOLDIERS' BODIES BY NEXT DAY. FINALLY, TWO SIDES AGREED ON MAIN LINES OF ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL (WHICH HAD BEEN REVISED TO INCLUDE SOME SYRIAN SUGGESTIONS). A FEW POINTS REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT, NOTABLY: (A) PRECISE DELINEATION OF TEN AND TWENTY KILOMETER LINES ON SYRIAN SIDE IN THE NORTH; (B) SYRIAN CONFIRMATION OF REMAINDER OF LINES ON ISRAELI-PRODUCED MAP; AND (C) SYRIAN REQUEST FOR MINOR ADJUSTMENT OF RED LINE NORTHEAST OF QUNEITRA TO AVOID CUTTING CONNECTING MILITARY SUPPLY ROAD BETWEEN TWO VILLAGES EAST OF RED LINE, AND FOR WESTWARD ADJUSTMENT OF BLUE LINE IN RAFID AREA IN SOUTH TO INCLUDE VILLAGE OF BUTMYIA IN SEPARATION AREA UNDER SYRIAN ADMINISTRATION. PRESS COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT END OF DAY WAS UPBEAT IN TONE STRESSING PROGRESS MADE IN DEMARCATING, PHASES OF DISENGAGEMENT AND IN OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

1. GEN SIILASVUO OPENED THE MEETING WITH REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE GENERAL DISENGAGEMENT PLAN. HE SPECIFIED DEALING WITH THE POW QUESTION FIRST. GEN SHAFIR FOR ISRAEL SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD RECEIVED FIVE NAMES FROM THE ICRC YESTERDAY, AND AGAIN THIS MORNING. FOUR OF THE NAMES ARE THE SAME AS THOSE GIVEN BY THE SYRIAN DELEGATION IN YESTERDAY'S MEETING. ONE NAME IS DIFFERENT; OF HIM THE ISRAELIS KNOW NOTHING. HE GAVE THE MAN'S NUMBER AND NAME, WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT GIVEN BY THE SYRIANS. ASKED ABOUT THREE OF THE OTHER FIVE, HE SAID NAMES WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE ON LIST OF DEAD. HE AGAIN ASKED THE SYRIANS IF THEY COULD PROVIDE MILITARY NUMBERS SO THAT THIS COULD BE CHECKED FURTHER.

2. GEN TAYYARA FOR SYRIA SAID THE MAN FOR WHOM ISRAELIS SAID THEY HAD NO RECORD HAD BEEN MENTIONED ON ISRAELI RADIO, WHICH SAID HE HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT. HE WAS AN IRAQI. IN RESPONSE TO SHAFIR'S EXPRESSION OF DOUBT, TAYYARA INSISTED THE IRAQI WAS A SOLDIER, NOT A SPY OR SOMETHING ELSE.

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HE APPARENTLY HAS NO MILITARY NUMBER. HOWEVER, TAYYARA SAID THE ICRC DEL HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO HIM ABOUT THIS MAN. SHAFIR REPLIED THAT THE ICRC SEEMED TO HAVE NO RECORD OF HIM, BUT HE AGREED TO TRY AGAIN TO CLARIFY THE QUESTION.

3. TAYYARA, SPEAKING THROUGH SIILASVUO, SAID THE SYRIAN DEL HAD CONTACTED SYRIAN AUTHORITIES AS TO

THE DATE OF THE EXCHANGE OF DEAD SOLDIERS' BODIES.  
HE EXPECTED THE ANSWER LATER TODAY.

4. TAYYARA ALSO CONVEYED SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO ISRAELI  
RETRIEVAL OF WRECKED VEHICLES. HE SAID THIS COULD BE  
DONE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DISENGAGEMENT, JUNE 6-8.  
SHAFIR AGREED.

5. TAYYARA THEN PRODUCED THE LIST OF SYRIAN CIVILIANS  
FROM THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN ISRAEL.  
HE ASKED FOR THEIR RELEASE. SHAFIR AGREED TO TAKE  
THE LIST, CHECK IT, AND PROVIDE AN ANSWER LATER ON.

6. TAYYARA PRODUCED A LIST OF PRISONERS FROM THE  
PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY WHO WERE CAPTURED DURING  
THE FIGHTING ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. HE SAID ISRAEL  
CONSIDERS THEM GUERRILLAS BUT THEY ARE POWS UNDER THE  
GENEVA CONVENTION. SHAFIR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD ADD  
THIS LIST TO THE EARLIER LIST OF CIVILIANS. HE DID NOT  
WISH TO MIX THE QUESTION OF POWS WITH THAT OF CIVILIANS.  
TAYYARA REJOINED THAT THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
CIVILIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION  
ARMY. SHILASUVO TRIED TO CONCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION  
BY SAYING HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL CONSIDERES THE QUESTIONS  
OF POWS AND CIVILIANS TO BE SEPARATE WHILE THE SYRIANS  
CONSIDER THE PLA PRISONERS AS POWS.

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6183

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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7. SHAFIR INSISTED THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SPEAKS ONLY OF POWS. SIILASVUO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ISRAELI DEL WOULD CONSIDER THE QUESTION AND GIVE A REPLY LATER. SHAFIR SAID THE REPLY WOULD BE TO THE ICRC, NOT IN THIS FORUM. TAYYARA SAID PLA CAPTURED DURING THE WAR IN THE FRONT LINES ARE POWS UNDER THE GENEVA CONVENTION. SHAFIR SAID DISCUSSION OF POWS HAD TAKEN PLACE YESTERDAY. ISRAELI LIST OF 408 HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF FIVE MORE SYRIANS WANTED ON THE LIST. ISRAEL HAD PROVIDED AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THOSE FIVE. THERE HAD BEEN NO OTHER QUESTION OF POWS RAISED. CIVILIANS ARE A SEPARATE SUBJECT. TAYYARA SAID SYRIA HAD SENT THE PLA LIST TO ICRC IN DAMASCUS. SIILASVUO AGAIN INTERJECTED THAT POSITIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES NOW BEING KNOWN, HE PROPOSED DISCUSSION PROCEED TO OTHER SUBJECTS, AWAITING AN EVENTUAL ANSWER ON THIS LIST. SHAFIR SAID SUCH ANSWER WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED IN PRESENT FORUM. ISRAEL HAD PROVIDED THE ONLY POW LIST IT HAD RECEIVED FROM THE ICRC. ISRAEL HAD HAD THE SAME PROBLEM WITH THE EGYPTIANS IN SINAI NEGOTIATIONS. IN THAT CASE, SUCH PRISONERS HAD BEEN DEALT WITH SEPARATELY, NOT IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGREEMENT. AT THATPOINT, TAYYARA YIELDED. HE SAID SYRIA WOULD DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH ICRC REPRESENTATIVES IN DAMASCUS

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AND TEL AVIV, NOT HERE.

8. SIILASVUO SUGGESTED DISCUSSION MOVE ON TO ISRAELI PLAN FOR DISENGAGEMENT, AND SYRIAN COUNTERPROPOSALS. SYRIANS BEGAN EXPLAINING THEIR PROPOSALS ORALLY AND SHAFIR ASKED IF THEY COULD NOT LOOK AT MAPS TOGETHER. SYRIANS BROUGHT THEIR MAP TO THE TABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM AND THE ISRAELIS JOINED THEM WITH THEIR MAP. CONVERSATION FOR REST OF SESSION WAS DIRECTLY BETWEEN SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS. UN OFFICIALS, AND SOVIET AND AMERICAN OBSERVERS, STOOD ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CIRCLE KEEPING TRACK OF WHAT WAS BEING SAID.

9. PROPOSED SYRIAN CHANGES WERE IN SEVERAL CATEGORIES. FIRST WAS AN OBJECTION TO TEN-KILOMETER ZONE AND TWENTY-KILOMETER ZONE ON SYRIAN SIDE (I.E., EAST OF RED LINE) BEING CARRIED SO FAR NORTH, WHEN COMPARABLE LINE ON ISRAELI SIDE TO SOUTHWEST WAS NOT CARRIED SO FAR SOUTHWEST. SYRIANS ARGUED LONG AND HARD BOTH ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLE, I.E. THAT AREA TO NORTH WAS BEYOND BATTLE ZONE, AND ON BASIS OF STATEMENT SUCH AS THAT THIS WAS A TOURIST AREA EAST OF MOUNT HERMON

WHERE MILITARY FORCES WOULD NOT NORMALLY GO AND WHERE UN OBSERVERS WOULD BE INTRUDING. ISRAELIS STEADFASTLY INSISTED ON NEED FOR LINE TO COVER AREA TEN KILOMETERS EAST, PARTICULARLY AS SYRIAN MILITARY POSITION EXISTED IN THAT AREA, AS WELL AS ROAD TO IT. ISRAELIS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND THEIR OWN TEN-KILOMETER LIMITED AREA TO SOUTHWEST, PLEADING THEY HAD NOT DONE SO ONLY BECAUSE IT SEEMED IRRELEVANT IN VIEW OF JORDANIAN BORDER THERE. HOWEVER, SYRIANS SAID THAT WAS REALLY NOT WHAT INTERESTED THEM BUT RATHER REDUCING THE ZONE ON THEIR SIDE IN THE NORTH. ISRAELIS WERE ADAMANT ON TEN-KILOMETER ZONE, BUT AGREED TO CONSIDER SYRIAN PROPOSAL FOR A REDUCTION OF AREA IN TEN-TO-TWENTY KILOMETER ZONE.

10. OTHER SYRIAN SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED REQUESTS FOR MINOR ADJUSTMENT OF LINES TO INCLUDE VILLAGE OF BUTMYIA AND MILITARY SUPPLY ROAD BETWEEN TWO VILLAGES (WHICH HAVE BEEN COVERED IN SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS). ISRAELI  
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SIDE AGREED TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ROAD. ISRAELIS DID NOT REPLY (AND APPEARED QUITE NEGATIVE) TO FINAL PLEA FROM SYRIANS THAT THEY RECONSIDER LINE TO LET SYRIA HAVE BUTMYIA VILLAGE.

11. OTHER SYRIAN SUGGESTIONS FOR TERRITORIAL CHANGES WERE RAISED AND DROPPED, WITH ISRAELIS IN EACH CASE ARGUING LOGIC OF THEIR OWN APPROACH WHILE AT SAME TIME EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY SYRIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL WHICH ABIDED BY AGREEMENT ON TEN-KILOMETER AND TWENTY-KILOMETER ZONES.

12. FINALLY, SYRIANS GAVE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTED CHANGES IN TIMETABLE FOR DISENGAGEMENT, SOME OF WHICH ISRAELIS AGREED TO CONSIDER DURING MID-DAY BREAK, AND PROVIDE ANSWERS IN THE EVENING. MORNING MEETING RECESSED AT APPROXIMATELY NOON, HAVING LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF. IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME AT 5:00 P.M.

13. WHEN MEETING RESUMED AT 5:00 P.M., ISRAELI SIDE PRESENTED REVISED DISENGAGEMENT PLAN INTO WHICH THEY HAD FACTORED A NUMBER OF CHANGES REQUESTED BY SYRIAN SIDE. AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES RECESS TO STUDY REVISIONS, SYRIANS ACCEPTED THE PLAN IN GENERAL, BUT HAD A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS. THEY PUSHED FRD ON GETTING A REDUCTION OF THE TEN AND TWENTY KILOMETER ZONES IN THE NORTH ON THE SYRIAN SIDE, JUST AS THEY HAD IN THE MORNING (SEE PARA 9 ABOVE). SHAFIR SAID HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SUCH A CHANGE FROM THE AGREEMENT BUT EVENTUALLY CAME AROUND

TO POSITION THAT HE WOULD REFER QUESTION TO HIS  
GOVERNMENT. SHAFIR'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT AGREEMENT CALLS FOR  
SEPARATION OF FORCES. SYRIANS AND EGYPTIAN MAGHDOUB  
ARGUED THAT FORCES WOULD BE ADEQUATELY SEPARATED IN THAT  
ZONE EVEN WITH REDUCTION THEY REQUESTED BECAUSE OF  
LARGE INTERVENING DEMILITARIZED AREA OF MOUNT HERMON.  
SHAFIR INSISTED THAT AGREEMENT SPOKE OF SPECIFIC  
LINES A AND B, AND KILOMETER MEASUREMENTS MUST PROCEED  
FROM THEM, NOT SOME OTHER POINT. THIS PROBLEM REMAINED  
UNSETTLED, AND DISCUSSION MOVED ON TO OTHER QUESTIONS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 /031 W  
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O 022210Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6184

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

USINT DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

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14. SYRIANS, AND PARTICULARLY EGYPTIAN GEN MAGHDOUB,  
QUESTIONED ISRAELI MEASUREMENT OF THE KILOMETER  
LINES. AT ONE POINT HE TOOK OUT A COMPASS TO TEST  
ISRAELI ASSERTION THAT THEY WERE DRAWN IN ONLY WAY THEY  
COULD BE. NOT HAVING SUCCEEDED IN DISPROVING ISRAELI  
THESIS, HE AGREED WITH ISRAELI PROPOSAL THAT THEY  
PROVIDE HIM BLANK MAP AND HE STUDY THE QUESTION OF  
WHERE LINES SHOULD BE OVERNIGHT, PRESENTING HIS CON-  
CLUSIONS, AND THOSE OF SYRIAN DELEGATION, TOMORROW.

15. SYRIAN DEL ANNOUNCED, AND SIILASVUO REITERATED,  
ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT PLAN WITH TWO  
FORMAL RESERVATIONS. ONE CONCERNED THE QUESTION OF  
THE NORTHERN LINES, AND THE OTHER WAS THE MATTER OF  
CHECKING ISRAELI DRAFTSMANSHIP AS A WHOLE. (COMMENT:

ALTHOUGH SYRIANS DID NOT MAKE A FORMAL RESERVATION ON MINOR ADJUSTMENTS THEY HAD REQUESTED --PARA 10 ABOVE --, OUR ASSUMPTION WAS THAT THEY WERE STILL AWAITING ISRAELI REACTION TO THOSE REQUESTS. THIS ASSUMPTION WAS PROVED CORRECT AFTER MEETING.)

16. SIILASVUO ANNOUNCED THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAD DECIDED TO ISSUE ORDERS TO THE AUSTRIAN AND PERUVIAN CONTINGENTS, AND TO THE CANADIAN AND POLISH LOGISTICS SECRET

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CONTINGENTS, TO START MOVE TOWARD AREA TOMORROW, JUNE 3. THEY SHOULD REACH THE AREA BY JUNE 5, IN ORDER TO START DEPLOYMENT ON JUNE 6. UNDOF OPERATIONS OFFICER WILL ARRIVE IN GENEVA TONIGHT, AND SIILASVUO HOPED TO GIVE PARTIES UNDOF DETAILED DEPLOYMENT PLAN BY TUESDAY AT LATEST.

17. SIILASVUO ADDED THAT HE HOPES TO DISCUSS OTHER QUESTIONS AS WELL, SUCH AS USE OF ROADS OUTSIDE THE BUFFER ZONES, ACCESS ROADS FROM SYRIA AND ISRAEL, ETC.

18. SIILASVUO THEN PRESENTED PAPER ENTITLED "MATTERS OF PROCEDURE FOR FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN," WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY ISRAELI DEL. SYRIANS REQUESTED TIME TO STUDY IT OVER-NIGHT, AND ISRAELIS AGREED.

19. MAGHDOUB ASKED WHO WOULD PREPARE MAP OF FINAL PLAN AND TIMETABLE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ISRAELI DEL HAD THE FACILITIES TO PREPARE THIS FINAL MAP AND TIMETABLE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN DELS.

20. COL SION OF ISRAELI DEL NOTED EARLIER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT THE DEMILITARIZED AREA WEST OF QUNEITRA, BETWEEN LINES A AND A-1 ON MAP, SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR INSPECTION BY UNDOF BEFORE END OF DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS. THIS WAS ADDED TO THE SCHEDULE, AND THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A FINAL UNDOF INSPECTION OF THE DISENGAGEMENT ZONES BEFORE PROCESS ENDED.

21. IN RESPONSE TO SIILASVUO'S SUGGESTION, UN'S MR JONAH DRAFTED A STATEMENT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS, GIST OF WHICH WAS THAT TODAY'S MEETING HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN DEMARCATING THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF DISENGAGEMENT AS SHOWN ON A MAP. PROGRESS WAS ALSO MADE IN DISCUSSING VARIOUS COLLATERAL MATTERS. GROUP AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AT 11:00 A.M. TOMORROW, JUNE 3.

22. AFTERNOON SESSION ENDED AT APPROXIMATELY 6:45 P.M.,  
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A DURATION OF SOMETHING OVER ONE AND A HALF HOURS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974GENEVA03475  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740139-1047  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 8  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** SED TO DISCUSS THEM IN MILITARY WORK, ING GROUP  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JUNE 2 MEETING OF ISRAEL-SYRIAN MILITARY WORKING GROUP SUMMARY: SECOND WORKING SESSION MORNING JUNE 2 WAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IS, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005